

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-24 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-12, 14-16 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Desormeaux (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,203). In response, applicant submits a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 enclosed herewith to overcome the Desormeaux reference.

The submitted declaration illustrates that that the present application had been conceived and reduced to practice in the United States at least prior to September 17, 1997, the filing date of Desormeaux. Reduction to practice occurs upon proof that the inventor had prepared drawings or other descriptions of the invention that are sufficiently specific to enable a person skilled in the art to practice the invention. *Pfaff v. Wells Elec., Inc.*, 525 U.S. 55.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated since Desormeaux has been overcome by the enclosed 37 C.F.R. §1.131 declaration.

Claims 5, 19 and 24 stand rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of Wilde (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,382). In addition, claims 9, 13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of Pfister et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,448,968). Further, claims 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of Pfister et al. as applied to claims 1-9 and 11-17 above, and further in view of Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,860,060).

For the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-12, 14-16 and 20-23, applicants respectfully submit that the above rejections have also been obviated because of the enclosed 37 C.F.R. §1.131 declaration.

Applicants emphasize that submission of the enclosed declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 should not be construed as an acquiescence to the any of the reasons for rejection set forth in the February 20, 2004 Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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